

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 remain pending in the present application. The specification is amended to supply missing serial numbers in the cross-reference to related applications.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,819 to Ruedisueli et al. ("Ruedisueli").

Applicants traverse this rejection based Ruedisueli does not teach each and every element of the claims. For example, Ruedisueli does not teach a unique identifier already on a page as shown below. As a result, Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, and 18-21 and passage to allowance.

Claim 1 recites "at least one sheet of a writing medium having a unique identifier located thereon." By contrast, Ruedisueli requires a user to write the identifier in the upper right corner of the paper. (Ruedisueli, Figure 2, reference numeral 36, col. 4 lines 46-56). "Any pen strokes in the upper right corner correspond to a user-specified identifier." (Ruedisueli, col. 4 lines 39-40). In Ruedisueli, every identifier is based on the start or capture of handwritten input, whereas in claim 1 the unique identifier is located on the page before the user does anything. The use of a pre-existing identifier allows unique functionality and advantages not achieved by Ruedisueli. For example, as user turns to any page in the paper and the system automatically knows which page is being written on, without the user needing to identify the page. Similarly, the pre-existing identifier provides faster access means, such as a menu control. Ruedisueli is limited to actually writing the identifier.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable under §102(b) and Applicants request reconsideration and passage to allowance. Claims 2-5, 7, and 9-10 depend from claim 1 and, thus, inherit at least the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-5, 7, and 9-10 are patentable under §102(b) and Applicants request their reconsideration and passage to allowance.

Claim 11 recites "a unique identifier located on a writing medium." For the same reasons as given above, claim 11 is patentable under §102(b) and Applicants request reconsideration and passage to allowance. Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and, thus, inherit at least the patentable subject matter of claim 11. Therefore, claims 12-15 are patentable under §102(b) and Applicants request their reconsideration and passage to allowance.

Claim 18 recites "a unique identifier located on a writing medium." For the same reasons as given above, claim 18 is patentable under §102(b) and Applicants request reconsideration and passage to allowance. Claims 19-21 depend from claim 18 and, thus, inherit at least the patentable subject matter of claim 18. Therefore, claims 19-21 are patentable under §102(b) and Applicants request their reconsideration and passage to allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 8, 16-17, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruedisueli.

Applicants traverse this rejection because Ruedisueli does not teach or suggest every claim element. For example, Ruedisueli does not teach a unique identifier already on a page as shown above. As a result, Applicants request reconsideration of claims 6, 8, 16-17, and 22-23 and passage to allowance.

Applicants are unable to find any suggestion of a unique identifier already on a page in Ruedisueli. In fact, the detailed description in Ruedisueli of how the user manually writes it teaches away.

Claim 1 recites "at least one sheet of a writing medium having a unique identifier located thereon" and is patentable for the above reasons.

Claims 6 and 8 depend from claim 1 and, thus, inherit at least the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 6 and 8 are patentable under §103(a) and Applicants request their reconsideration and passage to allowance.

Claim 11 recites "a unique identifier located on a writing medium" and is patentable for the above reasons.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 11 and, thus, inherit at least the patentable subject matter of claim 11. Therefore, claims 16 and 17 are patentable under §103(a) and Applicants their request reconsideration and passage to allowance.

Claim 18 recites "a unique identifier located on a writing medium" and is patentable for the above reasons.

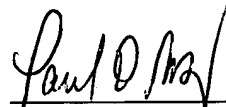
Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 18 and, thus, inherit at least the patentable subject matter of claim 18. Therefore, claims 22 and 23 are patentable under §103(a) and Applicants their request reconsideration and passage to allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are patentably distinguishable over the references cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be reconsidered and passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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